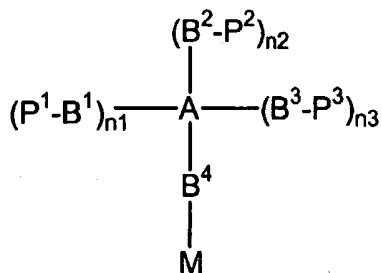


In the claims:

Please amend claims 1-7, 10 and 12-13 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A polymeric compound comprising units a repeating unit of formula (I)



in which:

Please enter  
T.2.  
04/20/04

A represents a nitrogen atom, a carbon atom, a group  $-CR^1-$  or an aromatic or alicyclic group, which is optionally substituted by a group selected from fluorine, chlorine, cyano and a C<sub>1-18</sub> cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl group, which is optionally substituted by a single cyano group or by one or more halogen atoms and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl  $-CH_2-$  groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from  $-O-$ ,  $-CO-$ ,  $-CO-O-$ ,  $-O-CO-$ ,

$-Si(CH_3)_2-O-Si(CH_3)_2-$ ,  $-NR^1-$ ,  $-NR^1-CO-$ ,  $-CO-NR^1-$ ,

$-NR^1-CO-O-$ ,  $-O-CO-NR^1-$ ,  $-NR^1-CO-NR^1-$ ,  $-CH=CH-$ ,

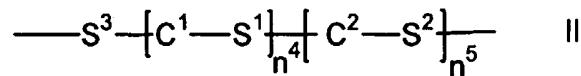
$-C\equiv C-$  and  $-O-CO-O-$ , wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl,

M represents a repeating monomer unit;

n<sup>1</sup> to n<sup>3</sup> each independently represent 0 or an integer having a value of from 1 to 3, with the proviso that 1 < n<sup>1</sup> + n<sup>2</sup> + n<sup>3</sup> < 4;

P<sup>1</sup>, P<sup>2</sup>, P<sup>3</sup> each independently represents a photoactive group; and

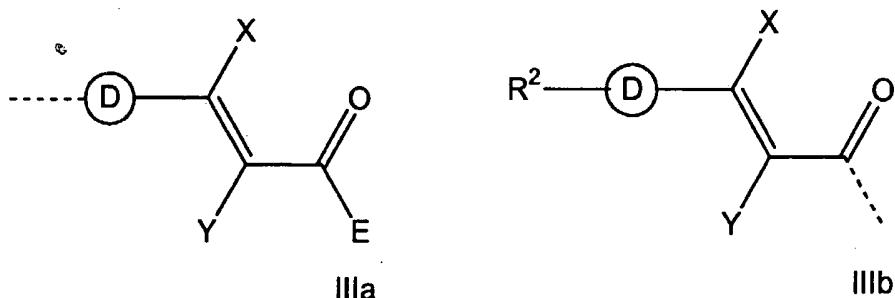
B<sup>1</sup> to B<sup>4</sup> each independently represent a residue of general formula II



in which

- S<sup>1</sup> to S<sup>3</sup> each independently represent a single bond or a spacer group selected from a C<sub>1-24</sub> straight-chain or branched alkylene group, which is optionally substituted by a single cyano group or by one or more halogen atoms and in which one or more non-adjacent alkylene —CH<sub>2</sub>— groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—, —CO—O—, —O—CO—, —Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>—O—Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—, —CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—O—, —O—CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —CH=CH—, —C≡C— and —O—CO—O—, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above,
- C<sup>1</sup> and C<sup>2</sup> each independently represents an aromatic or an alicyclic group, which is optionally substituted by a group selected from fluorine, chlorine, cyano or a C<sub>1-18</sub> cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl group, which is optionally substituted by a single cyano group or by one or more halogen atoms and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl —CH<sub>2</sub>— groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—, —CO—O—, —O—CO—, —Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>—O—Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—, —CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—O—, —O—CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —CH=CH—, —C≡C— and —O—CO—O—, wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl, and
- n<sup>4</sup> and n<sup>5</sup> are each independently 0 or 1.

~~2~~ (Currently Amended) A Polymeric compound according to Claim 1, in which P<sup>1</sup> to P<sup>3</sup> are selected from the general formulae IIIa and IIIb:



wherein the broken line indicates the point of linkage to S<sup>3</sup> and wherein:

- D represents pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, 2,5-thiophenylene, 2,5-furanylene, 1,4- or 2,6-naphthylene; a phenylene group, which is optionally substituted by a group selected from fluorine, chlorine, cyano; or a C<sub>1-18</sub> cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue, which is optionally substituted by a single cyano group or by one or more halogen groups and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl —CH<sub>2</sub>— groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—, —CO—O—, —O—CO—, —Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>—O—Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—, —CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—O—, —O—CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —CH=CH—, —C≡C— and —O—CO—O—, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above;
- E represents —OR<sup>3</sup>, —NR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup> or an oxygen atom, which defines together with the ring D a coumarin unit, wherein R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are selected from hydrogen and a C<sub>1-18</sub> cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue, which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl —CH<sub>2</sub>— groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—, —CO—O—, —O—CO— and —CH=CH—, or R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> together form a C<sub>5-8</sub> alicyclic ring;

X, Y each independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, cyano or a C<sub>1-12</sub> alkyl group, which is optionally substituted by fluorine and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl —CH<sub>2</sub>— groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—O—, —O—CO— and —CH=CH—;

R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen or a C<sub>1-18</sub> straight-chain or branched alkyl residue, which is optionally substituted by a single cyano group or by one or more halogen atoms and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl —CH<sub>2</sub>— groups are independently optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—, —CO—O—, —O—CO—, —Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>—O—Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—, —CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—O—, —O—CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —NR<sup>1</sup>—CO—NR<sup>1</sup>—, —CH=CH—, —C≡C— and —O—CO—O—, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above.

*B1  
Contd.*

~~3.~~ 3. (Currently Amended) A polymeric compound according to Claim 1, in which the repeating unit of formula (I) accounts for at least 50% of the monomer building blocks in the compound.

~~4.~~ 4. (Currently Amended) A polymeric compound according to claim 1, in which the group M is selected from acrylate; methacrylate; 2-chloroacrylate; 2-phenylacrylate; acrylamide, methacrylamide, 2-chloroacrylamide and 2-phenylacrylamide, the nitrogen atom of which is optionally substituted by a lower alkyl group; vinyl ether; vinyl ester; a styrene derivative; siloxane; imide; amic acid; an amic acid ester; amidimide; a maleic acid derivative and a fumaric acid derivative.

~~5.~~ 5. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a polymeric compound as claimed in claim 1, comprising the polymerization of one or more ~~pre-finished~~ monomer units of formula (I).

*6.* (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a polymeric compound as claimed in claim 1 by way of a polymer-analogous reaction, which comprises reacting functional photoactive derivatives with reactive polymers a photoactive derivative with a functional polymer analogue of a polymer according to Claim 1.

*7.* (Currently Amended) A polymer layer, comprising a polymeric compound according to claim 1 of formula (I) in cross-linked form.

Claims 8-9 (Canceled).

*8.* (Currently Amended) An optical or an electro-optical device, comprising a polymeric compound according to claim 1.

*9.* (Previously Presented) An optical or an electro-optical device, comprising a layer according to Claim 7.

*10.* (Currently Amended) A polymeric compound as claimed in claim 1, which is Poly-[1-[11-[5-[4-[(E)-2-methoxy-carbonylvinyl]benzoyloxy]-2-[6-[2-methoxy-(E)-4-(methoxycarbonylvinyl)-phenoxy]oxyhexyl]benzoyloxy]undecyloxycarbonyl]-1-methylethylene].

*11.* (Currently Amended) A polymeric compound as claimed in claim 1, which is Poly-[1-[11-(E,E)-2,5-di-[6-[2-methoxy-4-(methoxycarbonylvinyl)phenoxy]oxyhexyl]benzoyloxy]undecyloxycarbonyl]-1-methylethylene].